News for the
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Soundings

March 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 3

To Build A Relationship Begun By God

By The Rev. Jeff Gaustad, pastor at Christ the King in Snohomish

A simple phone call from Florida and that's how a new ministry began at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Snohomish. The caller was a representative from Food for the Poor (FFP), asking if they might send a speaker (a Lutheran clergyperson) to talk about ways they might partner with Christ the King. That simple invitation more than five years ago launched a relationship between FFP and Christ the King, a relationship that continues to grow.

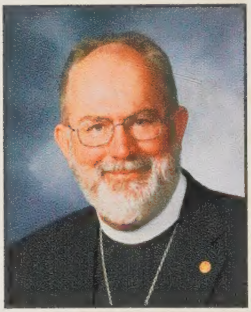
After hearing from two FFP speakers (both Lutheran clergy) some members of Christ the King began to entertain the idea of making a pilgrimage, with FFP. The members wanted to visit and walk with the poor of Haiti, and witness first hand how the church in the first world can partner with the church in the third world, making Christ's love more deeply known to all.

In October 2008 , I was invited by FFP to make such a pilgrimage. While in Haiti, I saw many, many people living in desperate poverty, their condition made all the more desperate when, only weeks before, Haiti was battered by wave after wave of tropical storms,

A young boys shows off the family cook stove which is located outside their home in Cité Soleil.

continued on page 8

A Word From The Bishop



This year's Synod Assembly will be different. I have often noted that we have at least three agendas when it comes to a Synod Assembly.

It is first a gathering around Word and Sacrament. We are the church and we need to be fed by the word and to receive the blessing of God's grace.

It is also a time to learn more about how the congregations of the church and the larger church are working. (We have not always used the workshop model that other synods use, but this is a function of the assembly.) It is also a business meeting. In recent years that has been the dominant feature of the assembly.

This year we are going to put greater focus on the worship and education functions. The schedule calls for a one-day business meeting (Friday, May 15) and a second day of worship and enrichment Saturday, May 16). It is a two-day assembly. On Saturday, May 16, the members of the assembly will be joined by others in the synod for workshops, discussion and celebration. Leonard Sweet will be the primary presenter on this day.

We will have to discipline ourselves when it comes to the business of the synod. We will have one day to get through that work. We will be looking at the 2010 budget. We will be electing members of the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee. We will be acting on resolutions that come from congregations or rostered leaders. (The deadline for Resolutions and for Nominations is March 1.) Resolutions addressing the church council's actions on the Human Sexuality Study or any policies recommendations coming from the churchwide task force will be needed no later than May 1.

We have never tried such an assembly. As I expressed

continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

A Word From
The Bishop

st year, I am not sure that parliamentary
'ocedure is the best way to address our
sagreements. We are more than the
solutions we vote upon. This year we will try
model that by expanding the assembly to be
ore than just business.

Please thank and support our co-chairs, Kim Unti and
ım Kluth, as they work with their committee to plan this
sembly. Volunteer to help them. Come to the assembly
:pecting something different. This year we are *Bringing*
ır Gifts to God's Party! You don't want to miss it.

Editor's Note: Leonard Sweet is our 2009 Synod Assembly
:ynote speaker. He is currently the E. Stanley Jones Professor
Evangelism at Drew Theological School (Madison, NJ), and
siting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University
'ortland, OR). Sweet is the author of more than 100 articles,
)0 published sermons and 30 books, most recently *The Gospel
:cording to Starbucks*. Sweet's web-based preaching resource
'ikiletics.com is the first open-source preaching resource on
e web. In both 2006 and 2007 he was voted "One of the 50
ost Influential Christians in America". His weekly free podcast
called *Napkin Scribbles,*

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)eadline for copy of the April issue of Soundings is Wednesday, March 4. The current issue,
nd archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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Under the Tent of Abraham

by The Rev. Tom Kidd, pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Kirkland

In late January Jew, Christian and Muslim gathered at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue to make conversation about our common life together.

Rabbi Jim Mirel, Temple B'nai Torah, Imaam Mohamad Joban, Muslim Association of Puget Sound and Bishop Chris Boerger gifted the 300 gathered with candid conversation and transparency. Those who attended were left with a clear and abiding sense of mutual respect for one another. A standing ovation was the community's sign of respect and gratitude for their joint effort.

Each faith community was generously represented in the evening's activities as well as a significant turnout from the community at large. Throughout the course of the program the gathered were encouraged to write out questions which were submitted to the moderator, myself.

With the ongoing conflict between Palestinians and Israelis as backdrop the tone of the conversation was as valuable as the answers. The place of Christians in this ongoing story of the Land of Israel is mired in its own sometimes self serving history. It felt, to say the least, complicated.

Two questions surfaced as critical: Is there a reason to hope? And, is violence the problem or a symptom of the problem?

Bishop Chris Boerger with Rabbi Jim Mirel, Temple B'nai Torah; Imaam Mohamad Joban, Muslim Association of Puget Sound; and Pastor Tom Kidd

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continued from page 4

Under the Tent of Abraham

illingness to be together in dialogue should rve as an example of hope. And with regard violence… possibly Bishop Boerger summed the collective attitude of all, that is, there is ope for new life when we stop comparing our ain and start listening to one another's pain. The gathered greed we would continue to seek opportunities to gather d listen.

Hope is a very good thing.

Coach Frosty's Spring Training

The Men's Ministry of Prince of Peace utheran in Everett is inviting men ages 12-0 to turn out for a special Spring Training ent. No, this won't involve a trip to Peoria, Z. But, every man who comes will have e opportunity to stretch and grow in their bilities to truly *Go in peace and serve the Lord!* ng-time PLU Football Coach, Forrest (Frosty) Westering ill be the trainer-presenter at this 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. event n Saturday, Feb. 28, at Prince of Peace, 9320 Meadow ay, Everett.

Frosty's focus will be on becoming more of the disciple hrist calls us to be. In the spirit of his practical theology, is outstanding communicator will equip young and older ke to *Make the Big Time Where We Are* as a men of God.

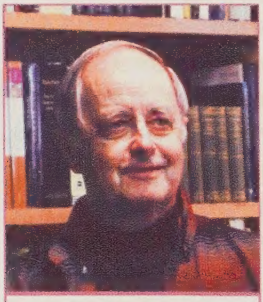
This is a great event for fathers and grandfathers to clude the younger men in their families. Consider also viting others with whom you may be in a mentoring lationship. A freewill offering will be asked. No pre-gistration is necessary. The doors open for registration-freshments and fellowship at 8:30 with worship and troductions beginning at 9:30. Prepare for a great orning "breakaway!" Make it greater by inviting and aring the morning with others!

Spring Bishop's Convocation

Ancient Judaism, the New Testament, and our Lutheran Heritage: Refocusing the Images is the title of the 2009 Spring Bishop's Convocation to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, at Maple Leaf in Seattle.

How have the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and revolutions in biblical scholarship in the past two generations changed our perceptions of Judaism at the turn of the era, and how do—or should—these developments lead us to rethink the origins of Christianity and enrich our Lutheran theology?

Our presenter for this one-day convocation is the Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg (ret.) of Issaquah. He was a supervisor of archeological excavations, theologian, editor, recipient of numerous academic awards and honors, author of *Ancient Judaism and Christian Origins* (copies of this book will be available for sale at the convo).



The Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg

Nickelsburg is also the author of several other books and articles, a creator of photographic exhibits, a participant on inter- disciplinary panels and discussions and a pastor. Faculty appointments include: Univ. of Iowa; LST of Chicago; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO; and PLTS in Berkeley, CA.

Registration and payment deadline is Monday, April 13 (lunch is included): $18 for active rostered and $15 for retired and interns ($20 at the door). Make checks payable to: NW Washington Synod and mail to 5519 Phinney Ave N., Seattle, WA 98103.

(For directions to Maple Leaf Lutheran Church please visit www.reachoutchurch.org.)

Bringing Our Gifts To God's Party

The 2009 Synod Assembly is going to be a lebration!

The two-day assembly at the Lynnwood ɔnvention Center is designed in a new rmat this year so that the celebration and e business can both take priority.

Friday, May 15, is all business. This allows to give the priority that the business of the nod deserves.

Saturday, May 16, is designed with a lebration of who the Northwest Washington Synod is. ur keynote speaker is Dr. Leonard Sweet, a nationally ıown author and teacher. (Check out his website at ww.leonardsweet.com.)

Celebration worship will be on Saturday and will clude a synod-wide choir of all ages. The party will ntinue throughout the day as we offer many "party" oms where we will be sharing all of the resources and inistries that are available in our own synod. Come to lebrate who we are and what we are doing.

Saturday is open to everyone. Voting members will be ere, but we also want to share this "party" with everyone.

Come, celebrate and learn. We are *Bringing Our Gifts God's Party!*

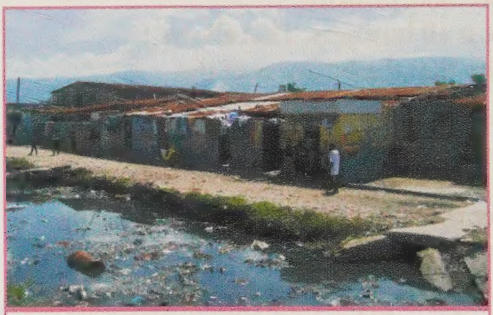
Contact co-chair Pam Kluth at purplepatch47@ ɔtmail.com or Kim Unti at kim.unti@comcast.net. We are cited to share with you what the plans are. Maybe you ɔuld like to help host the party – we would love to have you join us.

As more information becomes available visit www.lutheransnw.org.

continued from page 1

Building Relationships

hurricanes and torrential rains. In spite of poverty, flooding, damage and destruction, I found among the Haitian people a hospitality and a deep joy I have seldom encountered elsewhere.



An open sewer is next to a row of shanty, zinc-roofed houses in Cite Soleil.

With an estimated population of 7,656,000 people (growing rapidly) in an area smaller than Maryland, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere: 80 percent of the people live in poverty, 70 percent are unemployed and more than half are illiterate. While a host of NGO's (including our own Lutheran World Relief) and many nation's governments work to provide humanitarian aide, assistance and relief to the people of Haiti, malnutrition, hunger, disease and squalid conditions are overwhelmingly ever present.

In Haiti, my FFP group visited several feeding stations, where the organization provides daily bread (actually beans and rice) for thousands of families. We visited orphanages, schools and hospitals, most of which were run by religious orders with whom FFP partners to provide food, shelter, clothing and other necessities. In Port au Princes' Cite de Soleil (one of the world's most notorious and densely populated slums) the group saw the change and hope brought through one of FFP's housing developments. (You can see pictures at the congregation's website at www.ctksnohomish.org/page13298.asp.

continued from page 1

Building Relationships

The pilgrimage had a dramatic impact me. Upon my return that next Sunday ll Saints Sunday) in my sermon I shared ries and pictures of the pilgrimage. In e course of that sharing, I mentioned to e congregation what I had said to my nily: "All I want for Christmas is a house Haiti." My family had agreed to forgo exchanging gifts d instead, make a contribution toward the building of a use for a family in Haiti. When the congregation heard out our plan, they too ught the spirit. Over the urse of the next few weeks, ts in excess of $22,000 re received toward the ilding of houses in Haiti- ecifically in Cabaret, an ea an hour from Port Prince. (Cabaret was rticularly hard hit by a sh flood one night in ptember.)

This young girl is one of the residents of Little Children of Jesus Home, a FFP orphanage for children with special needs. Four days prior to us visiting she had undergone eye surgery, and was just beginning to see clearly for the first time in her life.

This coming April, a am of ten people from rist the King' will make ilgrimage to Haiti to ntinue to build this lationship begun by God th our neighbor in Haiti. ie team plans to see e houses being built in abaret, and perhaps even meet the families with whom e are blessed to be connected.

We'll keep you posted.

LPPO Update

by Rev. Paul Benz
Lutheran Public Policy Office
of Washington State

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www.lppowa.org

By the time this reaches you our state legislature will have completed seven weeks of their 15-week session. Their main priority is to form the new budget for the 2009-2011 biennium that begins on July 1st.

By the time the 105-day session ends on April 26th the budget also needs to be balanced; and with a near 8 billion revenue shortfall that will be a most difficult task – to say the least.

Three things you and/or your congregation can do:

1. Pray for your state legislators by name and by their district in your congregation's area; and pray for the governor as well.
2. Put your prayers into 'action' and do an offering of letters during March or early April (LPPO can help select an issue and help coordinate this).
3. Display and use the toll free ,state legislative, hot line telephone number (1-800-562-6000).

Recently religious leaders in Washington State, including Bishop Chris Boerger, met with the governor; and Advocacy Days were held in Spokane. Upcoming Advocacy Days will be held in Vancouver on Feb. 21 and 22 and in Shelton on Feb. 28 and March 1. Our annual Faith Advocacy Day will be held in Olympia on Tuesday, March 17. (Packets were mailed to your congregation the first week in February. Visit LPPO's website at www.lppowa.org for more info on this event. Even if you can't come there is a way for you and your congregation to participate.)

LPPO desires to be out in your church and local community engaging people of faith in the political process and building a statewide network for justice. Contact us at lppooffice@lcsnw.org to schedule a time to come and what that involves.

Holden Youth Weekends 2009

Holden Youth Weekend 2009
gistration materials are now available
www.tlc.edu/holden. This year's theme
Semper Reformanda and will use Martin
ther's famous dictum "always reforming".

Bible Book of Faith

Roger Anderson, Bible Book of Faith Synod Advocate

biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org

As you plan for this very important
ason, have you considered integrating the
ok of Faith Initiative into your Lenten
ogramming? The *Book of Faith Lenten*
rney is a new devotional resource that was
veloped specifically for the *Book of Faith*
tiative. Participants will study individually
d together through the seven petitions of the
rd's Prayer. Worship resources are available
www.bookoffaith.org.

Energy Star
For Congregations

The Environmental Protection Agency
PA) has recently developed an Energy Star
ting for congregations. This is a way for
ngregations to do a sort of "self-audit" of
eir facilities and apply for the Energy Star certification if
ey qualify. Most congregations can cut energy costs by
to 30% by investing strategically in efficient equipment,
cility upgrades and maintenance. For more information,
sit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.
_congregations.

Conference For Staff Leaders

The 2009 Lutheran Staff Association
SA) Conference will take place from
arch 8 through 11 at the Ocean Beach
onference Center, Cannon Beach, OR.
san Briehl is the keynote speaker and Bible study leader.
ttendees will explore the theme *Unforced Rhythms of*
race: Rediscover Your Life. For more information visit
ww.ewaidsynod.org/lutheranstaffassociation.html.

Here 'n There

■ The Living Water Group, a cooperative ministry venture of **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton, Lakeridge Lutheran in Seattle and Kent Lutheran in Kent,** funded a work project in Mkulazi, Tanzania. The Living Water Group gave $4000 to help build a water retention system in an area with a medical clinic and no fresh water supply within 45 minutes. The Group also gave $1000 to assist in flood recovery in Iowa.Future assistance will be give to the Centralia/Chehalis area to help families affected by the recent floods.

■ In January **Zion Lutheran in Kent** welcomed the Rev. Hans Wiersma as their 2009 Epiphany Speaker. Wiersma is Assistant Professor of Religion at Augsburg College in Minneaplois where he works closely trainin students interested in ministry.

■ **Faith Lutheran in Seattle** has a long tradition of gettin ready for Lent in several different ways. One way is the Pre-Lent Festival Day for Sunday School on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. The children make a banner that says *Alleluia.* The 6th graders bring the banner into worship and then take it back out, symbolizing the fact that we put away our Alleluia until Easter Day. The congregation also has a tradition of eating alot of pancakes preparing for the 40-day fast.

■ **University Lutheran in Seattle** is hosting the Seattle concert by the Oak Grove Lutheran School Concert Choir at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 23. This 50-voice high school ensemble from Fargo, ND, is known for its mature sound. The choir's ambitious repertoire includes major works as well as familiar pieces by such noted composers as F. Melius Christiansen, Leland B. Sateren and Knut Nystedt. Seattle is the culmination of their 2009 tour, and University Lutheran is to be the venue for their only concert in the Seattle area.

Within Our Family

We continue to hold in our prayers:
The Rev. Sai Wai Pau (Paul) Cheung
The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita
The Rev. Paul Wuest
The Rev. Joel Lohafar, Hope Lutheran in Lynden
The Rev. John LaMunyon, Samammish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish

We pray for:

The family of **Naomi Blumanthal, wife of the Rev. Gary Blumanthal (ret.).** Naomi passed away in January. Pastor Blumantal served at St Matthew in Renton before retiring. Naomi was also the sister of the Rev. Lowell Stime (ret.) who served at Lutheran Bible Institute/Trinity Lutheran College. Services were held at Community of Hope Lutheran Church in Wilsonville, OR. Cards may be sent to 20139 S. Henrici Road, Oregon City, OR 97045. Peace to her memory.

The family of **Larry Johnson, Associate in Minster and Synod Vice President.** Larry's mother passed away on February 5. She was in her 90's and had been ill for some time. Cards may be sent to Larry Johnson at: 14308 - 165th Place SE, Renton WA 98059. Peace to her memory.

The Rev. Mikkel Hustad, pastor at St. Peter Lutheran in Clinton., and his family. Pastor Hustand was hospitalized briefly in early February for a recurrence of the infection in his leg. Pastor Mikkel is the son of the Rev. Jack (ret) and Helen Hustad. Prayers for healing.

The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.) was admitted to Swedish Hospital in Seattle with possible pneumonia at the end of January. Cards may be sent to the Rev. Unseth at: 3221 NW 56th, Seattle WA, 98117. Prayers for healing.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Dat
Calls Accepted		
Larry Morris	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	1/1/2009
Occasions/Events		
Larry Morris	Reinstatement to the roster	1/1/2009

Opportunities

Director of 9th - 12th Grade Ministries—Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland is seeking a Director of 9th-12th Grade Ministries. This half-time position works with staff and volunteers to provide learning, fellowship, and service opportunities for youth in grades 9-12. A full position description and details on salary may be found at www.hslckirkland.org. Please contact Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse at katy@hslckirkland.org for additional information.

Residence Counselors—Lutheran Summer Music LSM), the national, month-long music academy for choir, band and orchestra students in grades 8-12, is now accepting applications for Residence Counselors for 2009. Counselors will receive a stipend and must be 21 years old with two years of college. LSM will be held at Luther College (Decorah, IA) from June 21 to July 19. To learn more and apply, visit www.lutheransummermusic.org or call 1-888-635-6583.

In The Steps of Reformers

Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse is leading a group from Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland to Prague and Germany from Oct. 24 to Nov. 3 2009. Contact Pastor Katy at katy@hslckirkland.org or visit the congregation's website at www.hslckirkland.org.

tor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our bsite at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated ekly, when necessary.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

n Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
rlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
inbridge Island, Bethany	PR	TR	Dennis Shaffert, Interim
llingham, Christ the Servant	PR	TR	Jim Miley, Interim
othell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
othell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
urlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
dmonds, Edmonds	A	P	Michael Ross, Pastor
verett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
verson, Immanuel	PR	I	Mary Bosell, Interim
saquah, Shepherd of the ills	PR	TR	Martha Myers, Interim
lercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	I	Supply
lount Vernon, First vangelical	PR	TR	Linda Larson, Interim
lukilteo, Harbour Pointe	PR	NV	Supply
lorth Bend, Mount Si	PR	I	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
eattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
eattle, Luther Memorial	PR	C	Karen Hanson, Interim
eattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:
R = Pastor
. = Associate
IM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
/SP = Associate with Special mphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:
I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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March 2009; Vol. 26, Issue 3

Table of Contents

Bishop's Message ..... *page 2*
Under The Tent of Abrahm . ..... *page 5*
Spring Bishop's Convo ..... *page 6*
2009 Synod Assembly ..... *page 7*
News & Events ..... *page 8-11*
Here 'n There ..... *page 12*
In Our Family ..... *page 13*
Transitions/Mobility ..... *page 14-15*